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IPC:

This is to certify that the attached documents are exact copies of the above mentioned patent application as originally filed.

Patent- og Varemærkestyrelsen
Økonomi- og Erhvervsministeriet

24 May 2004

Pia Høybye-Olsen

PATENT- OG VAREMÆRKESTYRELSEN

NOVEL AZA-RING DERIVATIVES AND THEIR USE AS MONOAMINE NEUROTRANSMITTER RE-UPTAKE INHIBITORS

TECHNICAL FIELD

This invention relates to novel aza-ring derivatives useful as monoamine neurotransmitter re-uptake inhibitors.

In other aspects the invention relates to the use of these compounds in a method for therapy and to pharmaceutical compositions comprising the compounds of the invention.

BACKGROUND ART

WO 97/30997 (NeuroSearch A/S) describes tropane derivatives active as neurotransmitter re-uptake inhibitors.

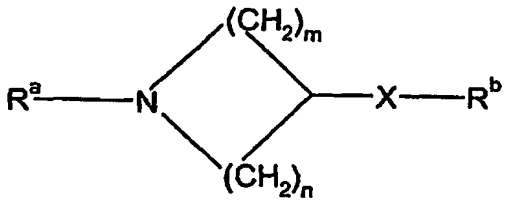
However, there is a continued strong need to find compounds with an optimised pharmacological profile as regards the activity on reuptake of the monoamine neurotransmitters serotonin, dopamine and noradrenaline, such as the ratio of the serotonin reuptake versus the noradrenaline and dopamine activity.

WO 01/77101, WO 03/004487 and WO 03/018556 (AstraZeneca AB) describe a number of phenoxypiperidine derivatives useful as intermediates for the preparation of pharmaceutical compounds. No pharmaceutical use of the intermediates is disclosed.

WO 99/24422 (NeuroSearch A/S) describes aza-ring ether derivatives and their use as nicotinic ACh receptor modulators.

SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION

In its first aspect, the invention provides a compound of the Formula I:



(I)

or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein R^a, R^b, X, m and n are as defined below.

In its second aspect, the invention provides a pharmaceutical composition, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the invention, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

In a further aspect, the invention provides the use of a compound of the invention, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical composition for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to inhibition of monoamine neurotransmitter re-uptake in the central nervous system.

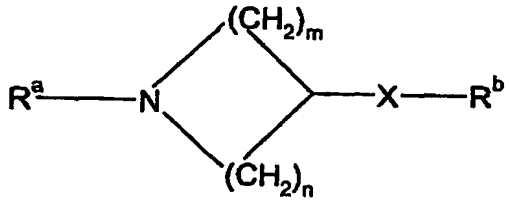
In a still further aspect, the invention relates to a method for treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disorder, disease or condition is responsive to responsive to inhibition of monoamine neurotransmitter re-uptake in the central nervous system, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of the invention, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Other objects of the invention will be apparent to the person skilled in the art from the following detailed description and examples.

DETAILED DISCLOSURE OF THE INVENTION

Aza-ring derivatives

In its first aspect the present invention provides a compounds of formula I:



(I)

or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,

wherein

R^a represents hydrogen or alkyl;

m is 0, 1 or 2;

n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;

with the proviso that the sum of m and n equals 2, 3, 4 or 5;

X represents –O– , –S– or –NR^c–;

wherein R^c represents hydrogen, alkyl, –C(=O)R^d or –SO_2R^d;

wherein R^d represents hydrogen or alkyl;

R^b represents an aryl or a heteroaryl group,

which aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of:

halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, hydroxy, amino, nitro, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl.

In one embodiment, R^a represents hydrogen. In a further embodiment, R^a represents alkyl, such as methyl.

In a further embodiment, m is 2. In a still further embodiment, n is 2. In a special embodiment, m is 2 and n is 2.

In a still further embodiment, X represents –O–.

In a further embodiment, R^b represents an aryl or a heteroaryl group, which aryl or heteroaryl group is substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano and alkoxy.

In a still further embodiment, R^b represents an optionally substituted phenyl group.

In a further embodiment, R^b represents an optionally substituted thienyl group.

In a still further embodiment, R^b represents a phenyl group, which phenyl group is substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano and alkoxy.

In a further embodiment, R^b represents a phenyl group substituted once or twice with halo, such as chloro. In a special embodiment, R^b represents dichlorophenyl, such as 2,3-dichlorophenyl or 3,4-dichlorophenyl.

In a still further embodiment, R^b represents a thienyl group, which thienyl group is substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of: halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano and alkoxy.

In a further embodiment, R^b represents a thienyl group substituted one or more times with halo, such as chloro. In a special embodiment, R^b represents trichlorothienyl, such as 3,4,5-trichloro-thiophen-2-yl.

In a special embodiment the chemical compound of the invention is

4-(2,3-Dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine

4-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine

4-(3,4,5-Trichloro-thienyloxy)-piperidine

4-(2,3-Dichloro-phenoxy)-1-methyl-piperidine

4-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-1-methyl-piperidine

or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

Any combination of two or more of the embodiments as described above is considered within the scope of the present invention.

Definition of Substituents

In the context of this invention halo represents fluoro, chloro, bromo or iodo.

In the context of this invention an alkyl group designates a univalent saturated, straight or branched hydrocarbon chain. The hydrocarbon chain preferably contain of from one to six carbon atoms (C_{1-6}-alkyl), including pentyl, isopentyl, neopentyl, tertiary pentyl, hexyl and isohexyl. In a preferred embodiment alkyl represents a C_{1-4}-alkyl group, including butyl, isobutyl, secondary butyl, and tertiary butyl. In another preferred embodiment of this invention alkyl represents a C_{1-3}-alkyl group, which may in particular be methyl, ethyl, propyl or isopropyl.

In the context of this invention an alkenyl group designates a carbon chain containing one or more double bonds, including di-enes, tri-enes and poly-enes. In a preferred embodiment the alkenyl group of the invention comprises of from two to six carbon atoms (C_{2-6}-alkenyl), including at least one double bond. In a most preferred embodiment the alkenyl group of the invention is ethenyl; 1- or 2-propenyl; 1-, 2- or 3-butenyl, or 1,3-butdienyl; 1-, 2-, 3-, 4- or 5-hexenyl, or 1,3-hexdienyl, or 1,3,5-hextrienyl.

In the context of this invention an alkynyl group designates a carbon chain containing one or more triple bonds, including di-ynes, tri-ynes and poly-ynes. In a preferred embodiment the alkynyl group of the invention comprises of from two to six carbon atoms (C_{2-6}-alkynyl), including at least one triple bond. In its most preferred embodiment the alkynyl group of the invention is ethynyl; 1-, or 2-propynyl; 1-, 2-, or 3-butynyl, or 1,3-butdiynyl; 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-pentynyl, or 1,3-pentdiynyl; 1-, 2-, 3-, 4-, or 5-hexynyl, or 1,3-hexdiynyl or 1,3,5-hextriynyl.

In the context of this invention a cycloalkyl group designates a cyclic alkyl group, preferably containing of from three to seven carbon atoms (C_{3-7}-cycloalkyl), including cyclopropyl, cyclobutyl, cyclopentyl, cyclohexyl and cycloheptyl.

Alkoxy is O-alkyl, wherein alkyl is as defined above.

Cycloalkoxy means O-cycloalkyl, wherein cycloalkyl is as defined above.

Cycloalkylalkyl means cycloalkyl as above and alkyl as above, meaning for example, cyclopropylmethyl.

Amino is NH_2 or NH-alkyl or N-$(alkyl)_2$, wherein alkyl is as defined above.

In the context of this invention an aryl group designates a carbocyclic aromatic ring system such as phenyl or naphthyl (1-naphthyl or 2-naphthyl).

In the context of this invention a heteroaryl group designates an aromatic mono- or bicyclic heterocyclic group, which holds one or more heteroatoms in its ring structure. Preferred heteroatoms include nitrogen (N), oxygen (O), and sulphur (S).

Preferred monocyclic heteroaryl groups of the invention include aromatic 5- and 6 membered heterocyclic monocyclic groups, including for example, but not limited to, oxazol-2-yl, oxazol-4-yl, oxazol-5-yl, isoxazol-3-yl, isoxazol-4-yl, isoxazol-5-yl, thiazol-2-yl, thiazol-4-yl, thiazol-5-yl, isothiazol-3-yl, isothiazol-4-yl, isothiazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-oxadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,4-thiadiazol-5-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-oxadiazol-4-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-3-yl, 1,2,5-thiadiazol-4-yl, 2-imidazolyl, 4-imidazolyl, 5-imidazolyl, 2-pyrrolyl, 3-pyrrolyl, 2-furanyl, 3-furanyl, 2-thienyl, 3-thienyl, 2-pyridyl, 3-pyridyl, 4-pyridyl, 2-pyrimidyl, 4-pyrimidyl, 5-pyrimidyl or 6-pyrimidyl.

Preferred bicyclic heteroaryl groups of the invention include indolizinyl, in particular 2-, 5- or 6-indolizinyl; indolyl, in particular 2-, 5- or 6-indolyl; isoindolyl, in particular 2-, 5- or 6-isoindolyl; benzo[b]furanyl, in particular 2-, 5- or 6-benzofuranyl; benzo[b]thienyl, in particular 2-, 5- or 6-benzothienyl; benzimidazolyl, in particular 2-, 5- or 6-benzimidazolyl; benzothiazolyl, in particular 5- or 6-benzothiazolyl; purinyl, in particular 2- or 8-purinyl; quinolinyl, in particular 2-, 3-, 6- or 7-quinolinyl; isoquinolinyl, in particular 3-, 6- or 7-isoquinolinyl; cinnolinyl, in particular 6- or 7-cinnolinyl; phthalazinyl, in particular 6- or 7-phthalazinyl; quinazolinyl, in particular 2-, 6- or 7-quinazolinyl; quinoxalinyl, in particular 2- or 6-quinoxalinyl; 1,8-naphthyridinyl, in particular 1,8-naphthyridin-2-, 3-, 6- or 7-yl; pteridinyl, in particular 2-, 6- or 7-pteridinyl; and indenyl, in particular 1-, 2-, 3-, 5- or 5-indenyl.

Pharmaceutically Acceptable Salts

The chemical compound of the invention may be provided in any form suitable for the intended administration. Suitable forms include pharmaceutically (i.e. physiologically) acceptable salts, and pre- or prodrug forms of the chemical compound of the invention.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable addition salts include, without limitation, the non-toxic inorganic and organic acid addition salts such as the hydrochloride, the hydrobromide, the nitrate, the perchlorate, the phosphate, the sulphate, the formate, the acetate, the aconate, the ascorbate, the benzenesulphonate, the benzoate, the cinnamate, the citrate, the embonate, the enantate, the fumarate, the glutamate, the glycolate, the lactate, the maleate, the malonate, the mandelate, the methanesulphonate, the naphthalene-2-sulphonate derived, the phthalate, the salicylate, the sorbate, the stearate, the succinate, the tartrate, the toluene-p-sulphonate, and the like. Such salts may be formed by procedures well known and described in the art.

Examples of pharmaceutically acceptable cationic salts of a chemical compound of the invention include, without limitation, the sodium, the potassium, the calcium, the magnesium, the lithium, and the ammonium salt, and the like, of a chemical compound of the invention containing an anionic group. Such cationic salts may be formed by procedures well known and described in the art.

Examples of pre- or prodrug forms of the chemical compound of the invention include examples of suitable prodrugs of the substances according to the invention include compounds modified at one or more reactive or derivatizable groups of the parent compound. Of particular interest are compounds modified at a carboxyl group, a hydroxyl group, or an amino group. Examples of suitable derivatives are esters or amides.

The chemical compound of the invention may be provided in dissoluble or indissoluble forms together with a pharmaceutically acceptable solvent such as water, ethanol, and the like. Dissoluble forms may also include hydrated forms such as the monohydrate, the dihydrate, the hemihydrate, the trihydrate, the tetrahydrate, and the like. In general, the dissoluble forms are considered equivalent to indissoluble forms for the purposes of this invention.

Steric Isomers

It will be appreciated by those skilled in the art that the compounds of the present invention may contain one or more chiral centers, and that such compounds exist in the form of isomers, such as in cis or trans configuration.

The invention includes all such isomers and any mixtures thereof including racemic mixtures.

Racemic forms can be resolved into the optical antipodes by known methods and techniques. One way of separating the isomeric salts is by use of an optically active acid, and liberating the optically active amine compound by treatment with a base. Another method for resolving racemates into the optical antipodes is based upon chromatography on an optical active matrix. Racemic compounds of the present invention can thus be resolved into their optical antipodes, e.g., by fractional crystallisation of d- or l- (tartrates, mandelates, or camphorsulphonate) salts for example.

The chemical compounds of the present invention may also be resolved by the formation of diastereomeric amides by reaction of the chemical compounds of the present invention with an optically active activated carboxylic acid such as that derived from (+) or (-) phenylalanine, (+) or (-) phenylglycine, (+) or (-) camphanic acid or by the formation of diastereomeric carbamates by reaction of the chemical compound of the present invention with an optically active chloroformate or the like.

Additional methods for the resolving the optical isomers are known in the art. Such methods include those described by *Jaques J, Collet A, & Wilen S* in "Enantiomers, Racemates, and Resolutions", John Wiley and Sons, New York (1981).

Optical active compounds can also be prepared from optical active starting materials.

Labelled Compounds

The compounds of the invention may be used in their labelled or unlabelled form. In the context of this invention "label" stands for the binding of a marker to the compound of interest that will allow easy quantitative detection of said compound.

The labelled compounds of the invention may be useful as diagnostic tools, radio tracers, or monitoring agents in various diagnostic methods, and for *in vivo* receptor imaging.

The labelled isomer of the invention preferably contains at least one radionuclide as a label. Positron emitting radionuclides are all candidates for usage. In the context of this invention the radionuclide is preferably selected from ^{2}H (deuterium), ^{3}H (tritium), ^{13}C, ^{14}C, ^{131}I, ^{125}I, ^{123}I, and ^{18}F.

The physical method for detecting the labelled isomer of the present invention may be selected from Position Emission Tomography (PET), Single Photon Imaging Computed Tomography (SPECT), Magnetic Resonance Spectroscopy (MRS), Magnetic Resonance Imaging (MRI), and Computed Axial X-ray Tomography (CAT), or combinations thereof.

Methods of Preparation

The chemical compounds of the invention may be prepared by conventional methods for chemical synthesis, e.g. those described in the working examples. The starting materials for the processes described in the present application are known or may readily be prepared by conventional methods from commercially available chemicals.

Also one compound of the invention can be converted to another compound of the invention using conventional methods.

The end products of the reactions described herein may be isolated by conventional techniques, e.g. by extraction, crystallisation, distillation, chromatography, etc.

Biological Activity

Compounds of the invention may be tested for their ability to inhibit reuptake of the monoamines dopamine, noradrenaline and serotonin in synaptosomes eg such as described in WO 97/30997. Based on the balanced activity observed in these tests the

compound of the invention is considered useful for the treatment the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to inhibition of monoamine neurotransmitter re-uptake in the central nervous system.

In a special embodiment, the compounds of the invention are considered useful for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of: mood disorder, depression, major depressive disorder, dysthymic disorder, bipolar disorder, bipolar I disorder, bipolar II disorder, cyclothymic disorder, mood disorder due to a general medical condition, mood disorder due to a general medical condition, substance-induced mood disorder, pseudodementia, Ganser's syndrome, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, panic disorder without agoraphobia, panic disorder with agoraphobia, agoraphobia without history of panic disorder, panic attack, memory deficits, memory loss, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obesity, anxiety, eating disorder, Parkinson's disease, parkinsonism, dementia, dementia of ageing, senile dementia, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome dementia complex, memory dysfunction in ageing, specific phobia, social phobia, drug addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, drug misuse, cocaine abuse, tobacco abuse, alcoholism, pain, migraine pain, tension-type headache, fibromyalgia, bulimia, premenstrual syndrome, late luteal phase syndrome, post-traumatic syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome, premature ejaculation, erectile difficulty, anorexia nervosa, sleep disorders, autism, mutism, trichotillomania, narcolepsy, or Gilles de la Tourettes disease. In a preferred embodiment, the compounds are considered useful for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of depression.

It is at present contemplated that a suitable dosage of the active pharmaceutical ingredient (API) is within the range of from about 0.1 to about 1000 mg API per day, more preferred of from about 10 to about 500 mg API per day, most preferred of from about 30 to about 100 mg API per day, dependent, however, upon the exact mode of administration, the form in which it is administered, the indication considered, the subject and in particular the body weight of the subject involved, and further the preference and experience of the physician or veterinarian in charge.

Preferred compounds of the invention show a biological activity in the sub-micromolar and micromolar range, i.e. of from below 1 to about 100 μM.

Pharmaceutical Compositions

In another aspect the invention provides novel pharmaceutical compositions comprising a therapeutically effective amount of the chemical compound of the invention.

While a chemical compound of the invention for use in therapy may be administered in the form of the raw chemical compound, it is preferred to introduce the

active ingredient, optionally in the form of a physiologically acceptable salt, in a pharmaceutical composition together with one or more adjuvants, excipients, carriers, buffers, diluents, and/or other customary pharmaceutical auxiliaries.

In a preferred embodiment, the invention provides pharmaceutical compositions comprising the chemical compound of the invention, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt or derivative thereof, together with one or more pharmaceutically acceptable carriers therefore, and, optionally, other therapeutic and/or prophylactic ingredients, know and used in the art. The carrier(s) must be "acceptable" in the sense of being compatible with the other ingredients of the formulation and not harmful to the recipient thereof.

The pharmaceutical composition of the invention may be administered by any convenient route, which suits the desired therapy. Preferred routes of administration include oral administration, in particular in tablet, in capsule, in dragé, in powder, or in liquid form, and parenteral administration, in particular cutaneous, subcutaneous, intramuscular, or intravenous injection. The pharmaceutical composition of the invention can be manufactured by any skilled person by use of standard methods and conventional techniques appropriate to the desired formulation. When desired, compositions adapted to give sustained release of the active ingredient may be employed.

Further details on techniques for formulation and administration may be found in the latest edition of Remington's Pharmaceutical Sciences (Maack Publishing Co., Easton, PA).

The actual dosage depend on the nature and severity of the disease being treated, and is within the discretion of the physician, and may be varied by titration of the dosage to the particular circumstances of this invention to produce the desired therapeutic effect. However, it is presently contemplated that pharmaceutical compositions containing of from about 0.1 to about 500 mg of active ingredient per individual dose, preferably of from about 1 to about 100 mg, most preferred of from about 1 to about 10 mg, are suitable for therapeutic treatments.

The active ingredient may be administered in one or several doses per day. A satisfactory result can, in certain instances, be obtained at a dosage as low as 0.1 µg/kg i.v. and 1 µg/kg p.o. The upper limit of the dosage range is presently considered to be about 10 mg/kg i.v. and 100 mg/kg p.o. Preferred ranges are from about 0.1 µg/kg to about 10 mg/kg/day i.v., and from about 1 µg/kg to about 100 mg/kg/day p.o.

Methods of Therapy

In another aspect the invention provides a method for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disease, disorder or condition is responsive to inhibition of

monoamine neurotransmitter re-uptake in the central nervous system, and which method comprises administering to such a living animal body, including a human, in need thereof an effective amount of a chemical compound of the invention.

It is at present contemplated that suitable dosage ranges are 0.1 to 1000 milligrams daily, 10-500 milligrams daily, and especially 30-100 milligrams daily, dependent as usual upon the exact mode of administration, form in which administered, the indication toward which the administration is directed, the subject involved and the body weight of the subject involved, and further the preference and experience of the physician or veterinarian in charge.

EXAMPLES

The invention is further illustrated with reference to the following examples, which are not intended to be in any way limiting to the scope of the invention as claimed.

General: All reactions involving air sensitive reagents or intermediates were performed under nitrogen and in anhydrous solvents. Magnesium sulphate was used as drying agent in the workup-procedures and solvents were evaporated under reduced pressure.

Method A

1-*Tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-hydroxy-piperidine

A mixture of 4-hydroxypiperidine (10.0 g, 98.9 mmol), aqueous sodiumhydrogen carbonate (150 ml, 1 M), di-*tert*-butyl dicarbonate (21.6 g, 98.9 mmol) and dichloromethane was stirred for 15 h. The phases were separated and the product was isolated as an oil in quantitative yield (19.9 g).

Method B

1-*Tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-(2,3-dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine

To a mixture of 1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-hydroxy-piperidine (4.03 g, 20 mmol), 2,3-dichlorophenol (3.91 g, 24 mmol), triphenylphosphine (9.29 g, 30 mmol) and dioxane (30 ml), was added: diethylazodicarboxylate (5.34 g, 30 mmol) over a time period of 40 min. The mixture was stirred for 15 h. Aqueous sodium hydroxide (100 ml, 1M) was added followed by extraction with dichloromethane (100 ml). The organic phase was washed with water (50 ml). Chromatography on silica gel with methanol : dichloromethane : acetone (1 : 4 : 1) as solvent gave the title compound as an oil. Yield 4.86 g (70%).

1-*Tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-(3,4-dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine

Was prepared as an oil according to method B from 3,4-dichlorophenol.

Method C

4-(2,3-Dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine hydrochloric acid salt

A mixture of 1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-(2,3-dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine (4.86 g, 14.04 mmol) and hydrochloric acid (84.2 ml, 84.2 mmol) in acetic acid was stirred for 15 h. The mixture was evaporated and the crystals were triturated with diethyl ether. Yield 3.64 g (81%). Mp 169.1°C.

4-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine hydrochloric acid salt

Was prepared according to method C from 1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-(3,4-dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine. Mp. 213.4 – 236.3°C.

4-(3,4,5-Trichloro-thienyloxy)-piperidine hydrochloric acid salt

Was prepared according to method C from 1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-(3,4,5-trichloro-thienyloxy)-piperidine Mp. 166.8 – 185.2°C.

Method D

4-(2,3-Dichloro-phenoxy)-1-methyl-piperidine hydrochloric acid salt

A mixture of 4-(2,3-dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine (1.00 g, 4.06 mmol), formic acid (15 ml, 98%) and aqueous formaldehyde (15 ml, 37%) was stirred for 15 h at reflux. The mixture was evaporated. Aqueous ammonia (50 ml, 1 M) was added followed by extraction with diethyl ether. Yield 0.96 g (88%). The hydrochloric acid salt was formed by adding a mixture of ethanol (10 ml) and concentrated hydrochloric acid (5 ml) followed by evaporation to dryness and trituration with diethyl ether. Mp. 184.8 – 204.8°C.

4-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-1-methyl-piperidine hydrochloric acid salt

Was prepared according to method D from 4-(3,4-dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine. Mp. 182.2 – 200.1°C.

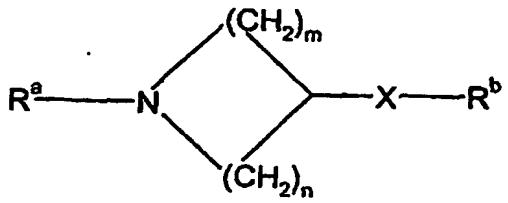
Method E

1-*Tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-(3,4,5-trichloro-thienyloxy)-piperidine

A mixture of tetrachlorothiophene (1.0 g, 4.51 mmol), 1-*tert*-butoxycarbonyl-4-hydroxy-piperidine (0.91 g, 4.51 mmol), 60% sodium hydride (0.23 g, 5.86 g) and DMF (15 ml) was stirred for 15 h at room temperature. Water was added (50 ml) and the mixture was extracted with ethyl acetate (2 x 50 ml). The organic phase was washed three times with water (3 x 50 ml). The product was isolated as an oil. Yield 0.91 g (52%).

CLAIMS

1. A compound of the Formula I:



(I)

or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers,
or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof,
wherein
R^a represents hydrogen or alkyl;
m is 0, 1 or 2;
n is 1, 2, 3, 4 or 5;
with the proviso that the sum of m and n equals 2, 3, 4 or 5;
X represents –O– , –S– or $–NR^c–$;
wherein R^c represents hydrogen, alkyl, $–C(=O)R^d$ or $–SO_2R^d$;
wherein R^d represents hydrogen or alkyl;
R^b represents an aryl or a heteroaryl group,
which aryl or heteroaryl group is optionally substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of:
halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano, hydroxy, amino, nitro, alkoxy, cycloalkoxy, alkyl, cycloalkyl, cycloalkylalkyl, alkenyl and alkynyl.

2. The chemical compound of claim 1, wherein
R^a represents hydrogen.

3. The chemical compound of claim 1, wherein
R^a represents methyl.

4. The chemical compound of any one of claims 1-3, wherein
m is 2 and n is 2.

5. The chemical compound of any one of claims 1-4, wherein
X represents –O–.

6. The chemical compounds of any one of claims 1-5, wherein

R^b represents an aryl or a heteroaryl group,
which aryl or heteroaryl group is substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of:
halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano and alkoxy.

7. The chemical compound of any one of claims 1-5, wherein
R^b represents a phenyl group,
which phenyl group is substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of:
halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano and alkoxy.

8. The chemical compound of any one of claims 1-5, wherein
R^b represents a thienyl group,
which thienyl group is substituted with one or more substituents independently selected from the group consisting of:
halo, trifluoromethyl, trifluoromethoxy, cyano and alkoxy.

9. The chemical compound of claim 1, which is
4-(2,3-Dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine
4-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-piperidine
4-(3,4,5-Trichloro-thienyloxy)-piperidine
4-(2,3-Dichloro-phenoxy)-1-methyl-piperidine
4-(3,4-Dichloro-phenoxy)-1-methyl-piperidine
or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

10. A pharmaceutical composition, comprising a therapeutically effective amount of a compound of any one of claims 1-9, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, together with at least one pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, excipient or diluent.

11. Use of the chemical compound of any of claims 1-9, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof, for the manufacture of a medicament.

12. The use according to claim 11, for the manufacture of a pharmaceutical pharmaceutical composition for the treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a mammal, including a human, which

disease, disorder or condition is responsive to inhibition of monoamine neurotransmitter re-uptake in the central nervous system.

13. The use according to claim 12, wherein the disease, disorder or condition is mood disorder, depression, major depressive disorder, dysthymic disorder, bipolar disorder, bipolar I disorder, bipolar II disorder, cyclothymic disorder, mood disorder due to a general medical condition, mood disorder due to a general medical condition, substance-induced mood disorder, pseudodementia, Ganser's syndrome, obsessive compulsive disorder, panic disorder, panic disorder without agoraphobia, panic disorder with agoraphobia, agoraphobia without history of panic disorder, panic attack, memory deficits, memory loss, attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, obesity, anxiety, eating disorder, Parkinson's disease, parkinsonism, dementia, dementia of ageing, senile dementia, acquired immunodeficiency syndrome dementia complex, memory dysfunction in ageing, specific phobia, social phobia, drug addiction, post-traumatic stress disorder, acute stress disorder, generalized anxiety disorder, drug misuse, cocaine abuse, tobacco abuse, alcoholism, pain, migraine pain, tension-type headache, fibromyalgia, bulimia, premenstrual syndrome, late luteal phase syndrome, post-traumatic syndrome, chronic fatigue syndrome, premature ejaculation, erectile difficulty, anorexia nervosa, sleep disorders, autism, mutism, trichotillomania, narcolepsy, or Gilles de la Tourettes disease.

14. A method for treatment, prevention or alleviation of a disease or a disorder or a condition of a living animal body, including a human, which disorder, disease or condition is responsive to inhibition of monoamine neurotransmitter re-uptake in the central nervous system, which method comprises the step of administering to such a living animal body in need thereof a therapeutically effective amount of a compound according to any one of the claims 1-9, or any of its isomers or any mixture of its isomers, or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt thereof.

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